

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners,
Public broadcast is at an all-time low. I would rather see all government controlled airways totally opened -- up for grabs with no regulations -- rather than see them given to a select few, who would undermine our Constitution and Bill of Rights for a buck. Let me tell this...the Induce Act and other assaults launched will not succeed. Get use to loving the spin you're in...technology will never acquiesce. Black market technologies will emerge. If the music industry and the movie industry think they can control technology by controlling politicians, they need to go back to drug dealing.

As a citizen who wants to be informed about the political and electoral issues that affect my life, I am greatly disappointed by the lack of informative television programming.

Local public affairs programming is virtually non-existent--constituting less than one half of 1% of all local programming. More than half of news broadcasts prior to the 2002 elections did not include a single campaign story. Our democracy is at risk when many Americans don't know basic facts about the candidates or the issues, as was the case in the 2000 elections.

Since broadcasters have clearly failed in their obligation to serve the public interest, the FCC should define meaningful public interest requirements that include local civic and electoral affairs programming. At a minimum, broadcasters should air three hours per week of local civic and electoral affairs programming, with at least two hours devoted to substantive election coverage in the six weeks prior to Election Day.

As the elections approach, a well-functioning democracy demands that citizens have access to a diversity of opinions and voices on the choices confronting us.

Sincerely,

Amanda Lang
714 Stillwater Drive
Augusta, GA 309073137